

Students for Staff

Students For Staff is a student organization working to create a community between students and staff members. We believe that full-time workers at a public institution should be paid a living wage, should not have to rely on government assistance, and thus be able to work with dignity. We also believe that it is our duty as students to help our administration hear the voices of staff who have been ignored in lieu of a strong union. In doing this we have been active in discussions with the administration, staff and other students.

Students for Staff met with President Hodge and asked for:

- a) A democratized CPAC (an advisory committee that works between the administration and the staff which is currently appointed by the administration)
- b) The creation of an exploratory committee to analyze the poverty issue of Miami staff

President Hodge refuses to acknowledge the significance of the poverty data gathered by his own administration. Based on the President's reluctance to act on the issues we brought to him, it's clear to SFS that the administration doesn't want critical information to be gathered by an exploratory wage committee or the democratic voice of an advisory committee.

Fair wages

32 staff members are paid sub-poverty wages and the wages of 112 staff members make them potentially eligible for food stamps.¹ Most social workers define a living standard as 200% of the federal poverty line shown below and our group suspects that the amount of people below the 200% income level is quite high.

¹ Information provided by Carol Hauser, MU Director of Human Resources.

Size of Family Unit	48 Contiguous States, D.C., and Outlying Jurisdictions
1	\$15,315
2	\$20,535
3	\$25,755
4	\$30,975
5	\$36,195
6	\$41,415
7	\$46,635
8	\$51,855

= A Fair Miami

Myth: A living wage for staff members will raise the tuition rates.

Fact: The administration has raised tuition rates by nearly the state-defined maximum amount of 9.9% each of the last three years (9%, 8.5%, 9.9%)¹ without offering its staff fair wages.

Myth: Miami University's student body and faculty are representative of the economic health of Oxford as a whole.

Fact: 12.4%² of Butler Co. residents live in poverty as of 2005 and 13.4%³ of Oxford according to the 2000 census.

Myth: Workers deserve what they get paid.

Fact: Workers deserve more; no full-time employees should need to rely on public assistance at a public institution or continue to struggle to pay for life's necessities. Some employees even need to take second **full-time** jobs in order to support themselves and their families.

¹ *The Miami Student* article April 21, 2006
² *The Miami Student* article Sept 5, 2006
³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Students for Staff welcomes you to Miami University and would like to give you some important information...

STUDENTS FOR
STAFF

Students for Staff is looking for motivated students to join a group focused on raising awareness about wage inequities at our University. We do research, meet to share findings, consolidate our knowledge, build consensus, and plan group actions in response. Meetings occur at 5 pm Fridays at 109 Harrison Hall. We encourage questions; please contact us at:

livingwagemiami@gmail.com
<http://www.orgs.muohio.edu/spj/sfs.htm>